(b) As irrigation is a State subject, all types of projects for creating Irrigation facilities are conceived, planned and implemented by the State Governments through the State sector plan investments according to the priority of the respective State Governments. The Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 92,144 crore in the Tenth Plan for Irrigation and Flood Control under State Plan. In addition to the State Plan allocation, Union Government is providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the States under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 for expeditious completion of on-going Irrigation Projects. An amount of Rs. 11,542 crore has been released upto March, 2003 as CLA to the States under AIBP.

The basic aim of crop diversification is to protect the natural resources *viz* soil health and to avoid over exploitation of ground water. Accordingly, the States are being advised to increase area under pulses and oilseeds crops. The Central Government has been announcing relatively higher Minimum Support Prices for pulses and oilseeds with a view to making crop diversification more remunerative for the farmers.

Assistance to Arunachal Pradesh

2102. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount granted to Arunachal Pradesh for development of Agricultural sector in the State during the last three years;

(b) the total amount utilized by the State Government against the allocated amount, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure cent per cent utilization of the released amount for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Central Government released an amount of Rs. 37.26 crore to the Government of Arunachal Pradesh under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the years 2000-01 to 2002-03 and the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh reported an expenditure of Rs. 37.57 crore during the same period as per details below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Amount Released	Expenditure Reported
2000-01	7.61	7.94
2001-02	12.17	13.99
2002-03	17.48	15.64

(c) The representative of all the States including Arunachal Pradesh are emphasized upon to ensure utilizaiton of maximum funds allocated, during meetings National and Rabi/Kharif Conferences. Area Officers have also been appointed to monitor the progress of targets set for the States.

Assistance of Kerala for weils disease of coconut trees

2103. SHRI N.K. PREMA CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance released to Kerala during the last year for the prevention of weils disease affecting coconut trees;

(b) whether Kerala Government utilised the fund allotted for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details of amount utilised and left un-utilised by the State Government;

(d) whether Government have discontinued the assistance due to the non-utilisation of fund; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Coconut Development Board released an amount of Rs. 681.85 lakhs during the year 2002-03 to Government of Kerala for adoption of package of